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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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BERRY'S CREEK TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP
MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 1986

The thirteenth meeting of TAG took place at the DEP Office in Trenton. The following people were in attendance: Art Slesinger, George Harvell, Dick Lee, Hank Garie, Paul Galluzzi, Joe Maher, Oksana Yaremko, Richard Dime, Bob Will, Larry Schmidt. Also in attendance were observers John Ciancia and Robin Burr. Prior to acting on the minutes, Art Slesinger brought to the attention of TAG that a Congressional field hearing took place in Bergen County on Monday, January 27. Art indicated that he received a letter of invitation and that Dr. Jorge Berkowitz represented the DEP. The hearing was held by Congressman Torcelli in Hackensack and the general purpose of the hearing was to discuss Superfund and specifically six Superfund sites located within Bergen County. (note - appended to the minutes is a news clipping from that hearing, Bergen Record, Tuesday, January 28, 1986 and Art's letter of invitation).

Paul Galluzzi brought to the attention of TAG that a researcher from MIT was doing a study on risk assessment involving hazardous waste clean-up sites. Paul has spoken to Eileen Babbit, the researcher under contract to the Dutch Government. He also referred her to Larry Schmidt. Larry indicated that he had spoken to her and transmitted a copy of the Cooperative Agreement/scope of work for background. It was further suggested that she speak to Dr. Lee and Richard Dime.

Art Slesinger noted that he had been made aware of the work of a group of Swedish researchers involved with mercury contamination. He said that the research document was ~~would be~~ available from the National Technical Information Service. ?

Larry Schmidt asked for a follow-up from Velsicol and Morton Thiokol on the delivery of Task I documents from ERM - Southeast. The TAG members have not received the final set of Task I documents and the prearranged system of numbering the documents seems to have been neglected. George Harvell agreed to follow-up on this matter with ERM-Southeast.



George and Art then announced that Fred Ziegler would no longer be participating on the TAG nor would he actively work on behalf of the two industries on the implementation of the various tasks within the Cooperative Agreement. The TAG members expressed their appreciation for the diligent effort that Fred has made on this project over the last two years.

The last preliminary item prior to moving forward with the agenda was a question by Larry Schmidt regarding critical path scheduling. Larry noted that Fred Ziegler had taken the initiative in developing a number of critical path schedules for consideration by TAG. The members of TAG agreed that it was Joe Maher's responsibility to continue with the scheduling of the tasks at least until the RI/FS contractor is brought on board. In the interim TAG agreed to follow the schedule framework that had been conceptually agreed to at prior TAG meetings.

The first item was approval of the minutes of the TAG meetings of November 5 and 19. Robin Burr of the Fish and Wildlife Service asked that the minutes of November 19 be amended to indicate that Fish and Wildlife Service had earmarked money for sampling of sediments and fish in the Berry's Creek Drainage Basin. There was no other changes and the minutes of the TAG meetings of November 5 and 19 were approved as drafted.

Mr Bob Sobolewski

The members of TAG welcomed Ms. Chris Altomira of the DEP's Hazardous Site Mitigation Administration to make a presentation on the current status of the two Superfund Sites located in the Berry's Creek Drainage Basin.

The first site described by Ms. Altomira was the Universal Oil Products (UOP) site in East Rutherford. UOP is a Superfund Site that had chemical manufacturing operations until the early 1970's. The facility was closed by the company and subsequently demolished in the late 1970's. The site is 80 acres of upland *tidal* that extends to Berry's Creek. Groundwater has tidal influence. *marshes.* Two Administrative Consent Orders (ACO) were signed in 1982 and 1984 and a third ACO for a Phase III Study is currently being written. The Phase III Study is to pinpoint sources of contamination and to delineate a full extent of the problem. This study will include analysis of soil sediments, surface water and groundwater. Previous studies have indicated that the site is grossly contaminated with volatile organic chemicals, PCB's, chlorinated benzene, arsenic, chromium, and mercury. Mercury has been detected in sediments at 6.7 to 40 ppm. TAG asked Chris to keep in mind that we need to determine if mercury is entering or leaving the site. TAG recommended that sediment sampling be taken down to the confluence of the stream.

Scientific Chemical Processing (SCP), Carlstadt, ^{was a former} ~~is an abandoned~~ industrial operation with activity taking place on the site until the mid 1970's. The operations which took place on site are not well known. However, fuel blending and solvent recovery did occur. The site investigation revealed many chemicals that are not associated with fuel blending and solvent recovery. It is suspected that direct discharges to the sewer system took place. This clean-up is under the lead of U.S. EPA and not the DEP. An administrative consent order was signed by the generators and responsible parties to fund the preparation of a RI/FS. Presently a surface removal of drums and tanks is underway. The RI/FS will not be started until the surface removal is complete. A number of lagoons are known to exist on site, and groundwater is 5-6 feet beneath the surface. PCB's were found on site and in sludges and liquids contained in four tanks. During the proposed RI/FS sampling, a full priority pollutant analysis will take place at Peach Island Creek (a tributary to Berrys Creek).

Art Slesinger questioned whether or not the effort was conceived to be holistic and questioned if we need to wait for data on UOP and SCP before proceeding with Berry's Creek. TAG members decided there was no need to hold up the Berry's Creek work. Dick Lee suggested that the UOP and SCP data may aid us in selecting specific priority pollutants to study in Berry's Creek. However, the results from these sites should be used ^{in coordination} ~~the in a~~ development of a sampling plan for Berry's Creek. Discussion focused on the need for Joe Maher to work closely with Chris and Bob Soboleski so that the effort is coordinated.

The next agenda item involved an update on the status of the research contract. The general items which were discussed included the WES contract, an update on the delivery of sediments by HMDC to Vicksburg and a discussion of potential future involvement by Dr. Simpson (presented by Paul Galluzzi -- see attached letter).

The delivery of the sediment to WES was discussed initially. Paul Galluzzi gave an overview of the sediment collections, analysis and transport. Paul distributed two handouts (appended to minutes as B1 and B2). He indicated that the sediments were collected on December 10 from five sites in Berry's Creek. These sites were selected based on the information contained in the Task I report. The sampling effort did not reveal sufficient concentrations of mercury in the sediments and subsequent sampling effort took place on January 7, 1986. Four new locations were selected in consultation with WES. Paul then reviewed the sample collection procedures. Samples were collected with stainless steel shovels and were placed into five gallon virgin plastic buckets. A single core sample was taken from the center of each bucket before sealing. Mercury analysis was completed by the lab at HMDC prior to transporting to WES. The sediments have been received at WES and are presently being stored in a refrigeration unit. Dr. Lee gave a breakdown on the buckets of

sediments that will be mixed to yield sediments. The buckets will be mixed and sampled prior to use in experiments. Several members of TAG asked if the mercury levels in the various bucket sediments were representative. Dick Lee felt that based on current information that the samples were representative. Dr. Lee said that the TAG should make a final decision on the adequacy of the samples and should give him direction on additional testing. Richard Dime said that the sampling calls for a priority pollutant +40 analysis. The TAG agreed that WES should undertake this analysis after mixing.

After a long discussion on additional analysis of the sediments, it was agreed that Paul Galluzzi would immediately send four samples to ETC in Edison for analysis of total mercury. The members of TAG specified that the samples would be 7-2, 8-6, 2-10, and 10-6. Art Slesinger agreed to pay for the sampling and that HMDC should deliver the samples and have ETC call Art to make the billing arrangements. Paul was instructed to request a 24 hour turn-around time on the analysis. (although it was later learned that 24 hours turn-around time was running a week to 10 days at the 24 hour price). Finally, the TAG members agreed that the samples must end up being plus or minus 30% of the expected average. If the samples are in that range then Dr. Lee could commence with the mixing process in Vicksburg.

Hank Garie then raised the question of responsibility for managing the research. He asked whether it was going to be the Office of Science and Research or the TAG subcommittee having ultimate management responsibility. Hank indicated that if the Office of Science and Research was given the authority, he would commit to managing the research contract. However, Hank reiterated his concern that given the number of responsibilities with the Office, he still needs a staff person to commit a percentage of his or her time to the Berry's Creek project. TAG members seemed to support Hank's commitment with the understanding that ~~OSR~~ had a person currently on staff that Hank could assign. The time spent on Berry's Creek will be billed to the project as an administrative cost similar to the current arrangement at Waste Management. Hank also committed to become more involved with the WES/LSU contract. It was further agreed that Joe Maher will continue to manage administrative aspects of the contract.

The discussion then turned to the research contract between DEP and WES. Joe Maher led the discussion by indicating that he had prepared a draft contract and that the document was being reviewed both by WES and New Jersey State government external to the Division of Waste Management (i.e. lawyers and contract officers). Joe indicated that under the State contract procedures there may be a problem with respect to advancing dollars to WES. The solution that emerged from the discussion was that the industries could make a payment based on a quarterly estimate at least 30 days earlier than what had been previously agreed

upon. In this manner there would be sufficient time for the State to pass the money to the Corps and LSU. Art Slesinger and George Harvell conceptually agreed to this procedure but indicated that they would need approval from their corporate program managers. The two industries also indicated that adjustments in the payment schedule should be made on a quarterly basis in order to reflect actual dollars expended during the previous quarter.

Joe Maher then asked the TAG to go over the proposed contract article by article. The items discussed included such things as 1) disposition of equipment at the end of the contract, 2) provisions to amend activity schedule, 3) the need for the quality assurance program from the Corps sooner than May 86, 4) a way in which WES and LSU could identify the cost per sample, and 5) the provision specifying that WES will accomplish the work in accordance to the agreed upon time schedule. The last item, that of WES guaranteeing to deliver on time, appeared to be a problem more with the lawyers than with the technical people. Dick Lee maintained that WES would endeavor to complete the tasks on time but could give no guarantee. It was agreed that the attorneys for DEP and WES would negotiate language acceptable to both parties.

Dick Lee agreed to finalize the review of the contract by January 31 and review the final draft as soon as it is made available to him. Dick indicated that a "letter of interest" plus the actual transmittal of the money would be acceptable to WES for the purposes of getting started.

Paul Galluzzi then asked TAG to review his letter of January 17 to Dr. Simpson. After a discussion, the group agreed that the marsh coring study is to be done by the contractor with no work to be done in the field during 1986. It was suggested that Dr. Simpson could draft a scope of work for the marsh coring study with the Office of Science and Research contracting with Simpson for this phase of work. No decision was made. Rather, the possible involvement with Dr. Simpson was tabled to a later date.

Finally, Paul Galluzzi made a presentation on the routine monitoring program of the HMDC. He also discussed his quality assurance program and handed out data from the November and January testing cycles. The TAG members briefly looked at the test results and agreed that the results are in line with what could be expected.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting scheduled for March 6 at DEP offices in Trenton.